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**FINANCE AND COMMERCE.**

The Spot Markets Are Generally Unchanged Except New York Which Is Lower—Heavy Port Receipts.  
Crop Estimates of Shepperson and Neill.

New York, December 7.—How the stock market came to be dull and firm today is shown by the following incidents gleaned during trading hours:

London bought a small amount of St. Paul, and there was some covering of shorts. It was stated by some Arbitrage brokers that St. Paul bought for London account has not been shipped, but is still carried here because of easier money rates, and that the London purchasers of St. Paul hay as yet had no influence on the exchange market. The strength of Atchison securities was partly on London buying and partly on buying by home brokers, who purchased the stock and bonds on cabled information that the finances of the company were in good condition and that the January interest will not be discounted.

Chicago gas was sold down in the last hour. The selling was attributable to a general belief that E. C. Benedict will retire from the management because of the refusal of his associates to agree with him on the dividend rate.

The reports of negotiations between the Big Four and East Illinois officials were confirmed today by President Porter of the Chicago and East Illinois, but no far no definite result has been reached and no option has been given for the sale of the Eastern Illinois. A broker in Big Four preferred, with an order to buy 200 shares at the market, bought the first hundred at \$6, but had to pay \$6 for the second hundred. The strength of both preferred and common was attributed to the distribution of the regular dividend on the preferred stock yesterday.

Time money is still in superabundance supply from all quarters. No loan in the desire to find proper investments that some of the institutions that are sought the borrowing in an open market, are employing the services of bankers to handle their options. The rates are 2 per cent for thirty to sixty days, 2½ to 3 for ninety days to four months, 3 to 4 for six to eight months.

Mercurial paper is still active in so far as the demand is concerned. The supply remains about the same, which is measure in proportion to the demand. The rates are 2½ to 4 per cent for undrawn bills; 4½ to 5 for first-class single names; 5 to 6½ for others.

Ordinary paper is still active in so far as the demand is concerned. The supply remains about the same, which is measure in proportion to the demand. The rates are 2½ to 4 per cent for undrawn bills; 4½ to 5 for first-class single names; 5 to 6½ for others.

Low Ordinary paper is still active in so far as the demand is concerned. The supply remains about the same, which is measure in proportion to the demand. The rates are 2½ to 4 per cent for undrawn bills; 4½ to 5 for first-class single names; 5 to 6½ for others.

Good Ordinary paper is still active in so far as the demand is concerned. The supply remains about the same, which is measure in proportion to the demand. The rates are 2½ to 4 per cent for undrawn bills; 4½ to 5 for first-class single names; 5 to 6½ for others.

Good Middling paper is still active in so far as the demand is concerned. The supply remains about the same, which is measure in proportion to the demand. The rates are 2½ to 4 per cent for undrawn bills; 4½ to 5 for first-class single names; 5 to 6½ for others.

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